

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A sugar-free composition comprising:

a) a mixture of at least two polyols present in an amount from about 15 to 80% by weight;

5           b) an emulsifier system present in an amount from about 1.0 to 30% by weight;

c) an active agent in an amount from about 0.1 to 70% by weight;

d) water in an amount from 0 to 15% by weight; and

10           e) optional components comprising colors, flavors and binders, wherein said ingredients in said sugar-free composition are present in an amount totaling 100%.

2. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, wherein said polyols are selected from the group consisting of  
15           hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, isomalt, erythritol, polydextrose, maltitol, lactitol, glycerin, sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol and mixtures thereof.

3. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1 wherein said emulsifier system contains at least one  
20           emulsifier and at least one fat.

4. The sugar-free composition according to claim 3 where in said emulsifier is present in an amount from about 0.5 to 20.0% by weight of the final composition and said fat is  
25           present in an amount from about 1.0 to 10.0% by weight of the final composition.

5. The sugar-free composition according to claim 3, wherein said fat component is selected from the group consisting of chocolate, cocoa butter, palm oil, canola oil, corn oil, sunflower oil, coconut oil, partially hydrogenated  
30           soybean oil, partially hydrogenated palm oil, partially hydrogenated coconut oil, partially hydrogenated canola oil,

partially hydrogenated cottonseed oil, recinolate, and mixtures thereof.

6. The sugar-free composition according to claim 3, wherein said emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of acetylated monoglycerides, glycerol esters, lecithin, de-oiled lecithin, enzyme-modified lecithins, purified lecithins, glycerol monostearate, polyglycerol esters, propylene glycol esters, sorbitan esters, polysorbate esters, sodium laurel sulfate, polyethylene glycols, sorbitol mono-, di- and tri-stearates and mixtures thereof.

7. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of dietary fiber, stannol esters, therapeutically active substances, vitamins, minerals, antacids, cough and cold medications, analgesics, cardiovascular medications, anti-smoking, psycho-therapeutics, antibiotics, and mixtures thereof.

8. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, further comprising a viscosity improvement agent present in an amount from about 0.1 to 10% by weight of the final composition.

9. The sugar-free composition according to claim 7, wherein said viscosity improvement agent is selected from the group consisting of locust bean gum, guar gum, hydrolyzed guar gum, carrageenan, starches, gum arabic, gelatin, agar, alginate, pectin and mixtures thereof.

10. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, further comprising a bioadhesive agent.

11. The sugar-free composition according to claim 10, wherein said bioadhesive agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose,

acrylic esters, polyvinyl acetates, alcohols and gums.

12. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, wherein said mixture of at least two polyols is present in an amount of about 20 to 50% by weight.

5 13. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, wherein said active agent is an amount of about 1.0 to 50% by weight.

14. The sugar-free composition according to claim 1, wherein said active agent is at least one fiber.

10 15. The sugar-free composition according to claim 14, wherein said fiber is selected from the group consisting of noncellulosic polysaccharides, pectin, gums, algal polysaccharides, specialty maltodextrins, cellulose, hemicellulose, fructo-oligo saccharides, psyllium, lignin,  
15 mucilages and mixtures thereof.

16. A protein-based, sugar-free composition comprising a mixture of:

a) a mixture of at least one protein and at least one polyol present in an amount from about 20 to 99% by  
20 weight;

b) an emulsifying system present in an amount from about 1.0 to 30% by weight;

c) an active agent in an amount from about 0.1 to 70% by weight; and

25 d) water in an amount from 0 to 10% by weight.

17. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said polyols are selected from the group consisting of hydrogenated starch hydrolysate, isomalt, erythritol, polydextrose, maltitol, lactitol, glycerin,  
30 sorbitol, xylitol, mannitol and mixtures thereof.

18. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according

to claim 16, wherein said emulsifier system contains at least one emulsifier and at least one fat.

19. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said emulsifier is present in an amount  
5 from about 0.5 to 20.0% by weight of the final composition and said fat is present in an amount from about 1.0 to 10.0% by weight of the final composition.

20. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said fat component is selected from the  
10 group consisting of chocolate, cocoa butter, palm oil, canola oil, corn oil, sunflower oil, coconut oil, partially hydrogenated soybean oil, partially hydrogenated palm oil, partially hydrogenated coconut oil, partially hydrogenated canola oil, partially hydrogenated cottonseed oil, recinolate,  
15 and mixtures thereof.

21. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said emulsifier is selected from the group consisting of acetylated monoglycerides, glycerol esters, lecithin, de-oiled lecithin, enzyme-modified  
20 lecithins, purified lecithins, glycerol monostearate, polyglycerol esters, propylene glycol esters, sorbitan esters, polysorbate esters, sodium laurel sulfate, polyethylene glycols, sorbitol mono-, di- and tri-stearates and mixtures thereof.

22. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said active agent is selected from the group consisting of dietary fiber, stannol esters, therapeutically active substances, vitamins, minerals, antacids, cough and cold medications, analgesics,  
25 cardiovascular medications, anti-smoking, psycho-therapeutics, antibiotics, and mixtures thereof.  
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23. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, further comprising a viscosity improvement agent present in an amount from about 0.1 to 10% by weight of the final composition.

5 24. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said viscosity improvement agent is selected from the group consisting of locust bean gum, carrageenan, starches, gum arabic, gelatin, agar, alginate, pectin and mixtures thereof.

10 25. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, further comprising a bioadhesive agent.

15 26. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said bioadhesive agent is selected from the group consisting of hydroxypropylmethyl cellulose, ethyl cellulose, acrylic esters, polyvinyl acetates, alcohols and gums.

27. The protein-based, sugar-free composition of claim 16, wherein said protein is selected from the group consisting of gelatin from cows, pigs, and fish and mixtures thereof.

20 28. The sugar-free composition of claim 1, further comprising a liquid or powdered lime flavor in an amount of 3.5-4.0% by weight.

25 29. The sugar-free composition of claim 1, further comprising a liquid or powdered tropical flavor in an amount of 3.6-4.1% by weight.

30 30. The sugar-free composition of claim 1, further comprising cool-mint, menthol flavor encapsulation, eucalyptus oil, peppermint liquid and peppermint flavor encapsulation wherein an oral hygiene formulation is formed.

31. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said one protein is present in an amount

of about 1 to 35% by weight.

32. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said one polyol is present in an amount of about 1.5 to 70% by weight.

5 33. The protein-based, sugar-free composition according to claim 16, wherein said polyol is present in an amount of about 1.5-2.0 times the amount of said protein present.

34. The protein-based composition according to claim 16, wherein said active agent is at least one fiber.

10 35. The protein-based composition according to claim 34, wherein said fiber is selected from the group consisting of noncellulosic polysaccharides, pectin, gums, algal polysaccharides, specialty maltodextrins, cellulose, hemicellulose, fructo-oligo saccharides, psyllium, lignin,  
15 mucilages and mixtures thereof.

36. A method of preparing a sugar-free composition comprising the steps of:

a) mixing from about 15 to 80% by weight of at least two polyols with about 0 to 15% by weight water;

20 b) heating said mixture to about 200-260°F for about 5 to 10 minutes;

c) cooling said mixture to about 175-240°F;

d) adding to said mixture about 1.0 to 30% by weight an emulsifier system to form a further mixture;

25 e) cooling said further mixture to about 100-110°F;

f) adding to said cooled further mixture about 0.1 to 70% by weight of an active ingredient to form said sugar-free composition.

30 37. The method according to claim 36, wherein said heating in step b) takes place under a vacuum.

38. An oral hygiene composition comprising:

a) a mixture of at least two polyols present in an amount from about 50 to 99% by weight;

b) an emulsifier system present in an amount from about 1.0 to 30% by weight;

5 c) an active ingredient in an amount from about 0.0 to 20% by weight;

d) a bioadhesive agent for improving oral hygiene; and

e) water in an amount from 0 to 25% by weight.

10 39. A weight reduction or cholesterol reducing composition comprising:

a) a mixture of at least two polyols present in an amount from about 50 to 99% by weight;

15 b) an emulsifier system present in an amount from about 1.0 to 30% by weight;

c) an active agent in an amount from about 0.0 to 20% by weight, said active agent being selected from the group consisting of dietary fibers, hydroxycitric acid, vitamins, minerals, and mixtures thereof; and

20 d) water in an amount from 0 to 15% by weight.